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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 002688

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NSC FOR FTOWNSEND, DSTEPHENS, EABRAMS

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TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [ETTC](#) [IR](#) [PK](#) [AF](#) [AE](#)
SUBJECT: IMPROVING THE UAE COUNTERPROLIFERATION RECORD

REF: A. STATE 102501 (NOTAL)

- [1](#)B. ABU DHABI 2422
- [1](#)C. ABU DHABI 2358

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Classified By: Ambassador Michele J. Sison for reasons 1.4 b and d.

[1](#)1. (S) SUMMARY. Ambassador met June 26 evening with Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed (AbZ) to discuss the USG's plans to take a number of immediate steps to address the continuing problem of diversion of goods from the UAE to Iran's WMD and missile programs (ref A). AbZ listened carefully, accepting the non-paper and posing several questions on the impact of the new policies on UAEG entities and private businesses. He complained once again about lack of P-5 plus one consultation with the GCC on the regional security aspects of the EU offer to Iran (refs B, C), saying that he was "pissed off" with EU foreign policy chief Solana, in particular. In response to Ambassador's question, AbZ also confirmed that he would travel to Tehran in July. END SUMMARY.

Improving the UAE Counterproliferation Record

[1](#)2. (S) Ambassador opened the meeting with Sheikh Abdullah, who had just returned from a trip to East and Central Asia, by noting that APhSCT Fran Townsend's June 19 visit to Abu Dhabi had focused on both counterproliferation and counter-terror concerns, as had her earlier April trip. AbZ recalled the April discussion of the low percentage of "favorable" U.S. Department of Commerce post-shipment verifications between Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed and Townsend (ref D). He took note of Ambassador's description of the poor results documented by the recent Sentinel trip (only one third of the 106 checks of U.S. goods exported to the UAE were favorable with verified end-users).

[1](#)3. (U) Ambassador briefed AbZ on USDOC export control officer duties and responsibilities, noting that the ECO's role was to promote legal trade between the U.S. and the UAE and to ensure that U.S. dual-use goods entering the UAE were used in accordance with U.S. export control laws and regulations. She also described the Sentinel program, noting that USDOC's Office of Export Enforcement sends personnel abroad to visit

the end-users of sensitive controlled commodities and determines whether these items are being used in accordance with license conditions. Ambassador added that she had also provided this information on USDOC export controls programs to General Director of State Security Dubai Brig. Mohamed al Qemzi on June 21 after he had expressed concerns about one of the recent Sentinel calls on a Dubai company (al Qemzi is the UAE chair of the Joint US-UAE Counterproliferation Task Force).

14. (S) AbZ remarked upon the continued U.S. focus on the urgency of the passage of a UAE export controls law, but offered no view as to whether the law would be enacted before the July 15 UAE Cabinet recess (which runs through September 1). He noted that there would be two UAE Cabinet meetings before the recess, on July 3 and July 10. He undertook to pass the non-paper to Mohammed al Qemzi in Dubai.

15. (S) The Foreign Minister studied the three additional actions described in the non-paper carefully (required pre-license checks for all unknown non-government end users, adding two UAE entities to the Unverified List, and imposing license requirements for certain UAE entities). The FM asked whether this would affect both public sector and private sector entities; Ambassador replied that these three steps would affect non-UAEG entities. AbZ then studied the list of possible additional actions and noted, with some alarm, that one or more of these could well impact a broader range of UAE businesses. Ambassador confirmed that this would likely be the case. She reiterated the USG's hope that USG would not have to take these subsequent steps given the U.S.-UAE record of working cooperatively, but pointed out again the need for export control-transshipment legislation, an export control enforcement regime, and continued cooperation on specific USG action requests.

16. (C) The Ambassador noted the USG's disappointment that Abu

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Dhabi had not sent a representative to the recent Warsaw PSI meeting. AbZ offered no comment, but changed the subject and asked instead about the Ambassador's World Cup favorites.

AbZ Ire over Iran Package

17. (S) AbZ stated flatly that he was "pissed off" at the P-5 plus one's failure to consult with the GCC on the regional security aspects of the Iran package. (This was the fourth time AbZ has complained to Ambassador regarding this issue). The UAEG's information was that this aspect of the package had been an EU initiative, "not an American idea," said AbZ. Nonetheless, the UAE and the GCC were upset at the lack of information-sharing. A security incentive for Iran could only be devised "by someone who doesn't know this area at all," complained Abdullah. The newly-launched Gulf Security Dialog should truly be a dialog, he emphasized. Ambassador noted that U.S. and UAE teams were working to coordinate an end-July date for a follow-on GSD round.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

18. (S) AbZ expressed satisfaction with his meetings with Presidents Musharraf and Karzai at the Shanghai SCO, and noted that Karzai's recent appearance on CNN with Wolf Blitzer had happily not included any Pakistan-bashing. The Pakistani and Afghan intel chiefs were set to meet in Abu Dhabi July 10-11 under UAEG auspices, he confirmed.

AbZ Plans to Visit Tehran

19. (S) Ambassador asked AbZ whether press speculation regarding planned travel to Tehran were accurate. He confirmed that a July trip to Tehran was under discussion, but said that the dates had not yet been worked out with the

Iranian side. He confirmed that the nuclear issue, three disputed islands, and continuing fishermen's issues would be on the agenda (Iran continues to harass UAE fishermen, taking them into custody for allegedly having entered Iranian waters).

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